

## **IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

### **Youth Program Design Committee**

**June 4, 2008, Meeting Minutes**

**Boise, Idaho**

Committee Chair Jim Schmidt welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7 meeting. Kara Besst moved the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Jim Schmidt and approved unanimously.

Cheryl Brush reviewed a graph of organizations and their resources that provide youth training. The committee discussed the diminished resources available from the WIA youth program and the need to identify and effectively coordinate and partner with other service providers to identify and fill gaps in services.

#### Juvenile Corrections

Sharon Harrigfeld from the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections made a presentation to the committee on the juvenile justice system and its funding sources. The committee engaged in a discussion regarding how Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth program services could more effectively be used to assist youth in Idaho's juvenile justice system. There were 458 juveniles released from the Department during 2007 and 435 released in 2008. The average stay in a state juvenile institution was 20 months.

Key ideas identified included assuring that the Workforce Development Council may be able to help the juvenile justice system more effectively focus on and encourage employment and training as a significant goal that would increase their success. This should include an awareness by judges and parole officers that an employment and training focus would assist them in managing juvenile behavior. It may also require changes to procedures. For example, it would be helpful if probation officers were more sensitive in not unnecessarily disrupting youth during class or work time to fulfill probation requirements. Other challenges identified were security issues that created barriers such as limiting the use of online training within correction facilities.

Key points of contacts identified to continue this dialogue were the Juvenile Justice Commission, the Chief Probation Officers and the Idaho Association of Counties—Idaho Association of Commissioners and Clerks. It was also suggested that it may be appropriate for the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections Director Larry W. Callicutt be invited to speak at a future Workforce Development Council meeting. Ms. Harrigfeld stated that this discussion about the best use of WIA youth program funds may be an excellent opportunity to address current gaps within the juvenile justice system and said they welcomed this discussion.

Ms. Harrigfeld also identified staff training in career development as one of their needs. Cheryl Brush responded that perhaps the best way to offer this training is to have outside contractors provide it. The Department of Labor has an in-depth, certified career development facilitator training program for its local office staff but it takes a big commitment to complete the entire package of classroom training, computer-assisted learning modules, home work and testing. The

department has several central office staff involved in curriculum design, presentation and record-keeping.

### Youth After Foster Care

Diane Helton, Independent Living Coordinator from the Department of Health and Welfare presented information to the committee on services to youth leaving foster care, which usually occurs when the minor turns 18 years of age. The aim of the services is to facilitate the transition from foster care to independent living. About 150 youth age out of the foster care program every year.

Harold Nevill from the Division of Professional-Technical Education suggested committee members visit with judges who try juveniles. The court's perspective on what these youth need, what programs (such as drug court) they have set up and general involvement in youth workforce development should be very instructive.

### WIA Youth Service Delivery

Cheryl Brush introduced Transmittal 1 and asked the committee to develop recommendations to the full council. These recommendations should include: 1) Who will be served? 2) What services will be delivered? and 3) How will services be provided?

The committee reviewed previous actions taken in prioritizing groups for the services and what services will be provided. The recommendations are listed in Transmittal 1, pages 2-3. The committee reviewed and discussed its previous actions with regard to setting aside a portion of funds to serve in-school youth, the priority groups for services and what services can be provided via WIA funds and which should be provided via coordination with other resources. The latter were identified as tutoring, alternative schools and guidance and counseling. The committee concluded there were not any changes that should be made about its previous recommendations.

Ms. Brush then introduced the general subject regarding recommendation on how the services will be provided. She indicated several steps had to be taken before any recommendations can be made. These actions concern how and by whom the services will be provided (procurement) and what program design flexibility the act and regulations provide to the state and if this flexibility can be enhanced (waivers).

Staff has prepared two waivers to the WIA regulations for submittal to the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The first is to define follow-up, work experience and support services as "framework services" and, therefore, will allow delivery by Idaho's One Stop system without regard to procurement. The second waiver request would allow WIA funding of Individual Training Accounts for older youth. Committee members discussed the waivers and then instructed Cheryl to submit them for public review via the Internet. The response will be a topic for the next committee meeting. Further discussion of procurement options also was deferred to the next meeting.

## Adjournment

There being no other business, the next committee meeting was tentatively set for July 24 in Boise (with teleconferencing available) and the meeting was adjourned.

### Attendance:

#### Committee Members:

Jim Schmidt, Chair  
Kara Besst

#### Visitors:

Sharon Harrigfeld, Department of Juvenile Corrections  
Diane Helton, Idaho Department of Health & Welfare  
Harold Nevill, Division of Professional-Technical Education

#### Via telephone:

Lisa Roberts, Arbor Education & Training

#### Idaho Department of Labor staff:

Jim Adams  
Cheryl Brush  
Dwight Johnson  
Kristyn Roan  
Alice Taylor  
Roy Valdez